**Realism: *Of Mice and Men* Final Paper**

*What*

For this writing assignment, you will compose an essay over one of the main topics connected to realism from Of Mice and Men (Loneliness, Friendship, Poverty, Lost Dreams, Protection). You will be asked to find evidence in the novel that supports the theme. Then you will make real-world connections to your topic. You may relate these topics to your own life, to a historical or current event, or society in general. You may use articles and discussions from class to determine your topic! Your essay should cohesively connect your topic from the novel and its real-world connection.

*Why*

This assignment will demonstrate your skills in novel comprehension, textual analysis, and synthesizing information (making real-world connections) while practicing the art of formal writing. This assignment should connect to an issue or event that inspires you.

*How*

Please note, this is not a summary! For this essay, you will produce a paper that is at **2-3 pages in length** **with a typed, final draft in MLA format with TNR font**.   
Here are some tips for your writing process:   
\*\*I would like to have this be the go-to process, so it will most likely be included in a different handout instead of with the assignment.\*\*

* Prewriting:
  + Begin by choosing your theme and writing everything you know about your topic.
  + Now ask yourself*, What does the author want me to know about this topic? What was the point in including it in the novella?*
  + Use the text to find at least 8 direct quotes with MLA citation to support your topic
* Drafting:
  + Begin to organize your data and knowledge in an outline:
    - What ideas seem to fit together?
    - What is your thesis?
    - What are the different descriptions, circumstances, characters, locations, etc. that could be broken into potential paragraphs?
  + Think about using the 5 paragraph essay as a model for your writing, but most importantly, be sure your ideas flow nicely regardless of how you break down your paragraphs.
  + It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO schedule a 10 minute conference with me during one of the following times: **20 minutes before school, 20 minutes after school, during Seminar, or the first or last 10 minutes of our class time**. Please come to your conference with your topic choice, real-world connection, pre-writing, textbook, rough draft, and any other materials or sources you have used during the writing process.
* *Revision:* 
  + You must revise your paper **at least 3 times** during this workshop.
    - Once yourself
    - Once by a peer
    - Once co-revised with a peer
  + Here are your instructions and tips for peer and co-revision:
    - If you are the writer: Think of 2 questions you want your editor to consider as he/she reads (Does this \*specific part\* need to be rearranged? How could I word this differently?)
    - If you are the peer-reviser: Respond to the writer’s questions in full **on paper** (3 sentences) and in person. Then give the writer 2 questions/pieces of advice of your own (What did you mean here? Did you want to use this word?).
    - During co-revision: Writer and editor will read essay aloud one time each. Note places that are stumbling blocks and fix them
    - ***PLEASE INITIAL ALL COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, AND FEEDBACK PRESENTED BY ALL INVOLVED PARTIES!!!***
  + Each time you revise you should make changes. Therefore, you should have **at least 3 different drafts** of your paper with comments (4 depending on when you conference with me). Most questions will deal with creative choices and flow or ideas, it is your job as both writer and editor to mark any grammatical or syntactical changes that need to be made. THESE WILL NOT COUNT TOWARD THE QUESTIONS YOU MUST POSE TO YOUR REVISER/AUTHOR!!!!!!!’=

*When*

We will begin this assignment October 27th and it will be **due on November 5th**.   
The first two class periods will be an overview of the assignment, in-class time for brainstorm and research, and time to begin your formal essay draft**. From here, you must complete and edit your draft outside of class**. We will have another 2 class periods designated for peer review, co-editing, and final revisions. All other work must be completed outside of class.

*Scoring*

Your essay will be scored on the following elements;

* Format (Typed MLA 2-3 pages, TNR)
* Demonstration of understanding of text and topic
* Ability to stay on topic
* The citation and proper incorporation of at least 5 quotations (more earns you extra credit ☺)
* The structure of your essay: Does it make sense?
* Incorporation of at least 5 vocabulary words from any unit to date. Vocab words will be underlined in all drafts of your essay. Again, more earns you extra credit (1 point per word)!

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1 | 5 | 10 |
| Ideas | There is little to no clear connection between topic and real-world connection; or, pre-writing activities were inadequate. | Topic and real-world connections are unclear. Pre-writing may not be complete. | Topic and real-world connects are relevant to the novel. Pre-writing activities were completed, topic was approved by the instructor. |
| Editing Workshops | Participated very little in editing workshops. Failed to pose or answer under half of the required questions; or did not pose genuine questions or answers. | Writer either posed questions or answered questions, but not both, or questions may not have been fully answered or genuine. | Writer posed 2 questions for peer editor, and as peer editor posed 2 questions/pieces of advice, and fully answered author’s questions. |
| Conference with Instructor  (All or nothing) | N/A | N/A | Scheduled 10 minute conference with instructor. |
| Citations | Only 1-2 citations included in essay; or MLA citations were incorrect. | Only 3-4 citations included in essay; MLA citations may include page number, author’s last name, or quotation marks, but not all. | At least 5 citations from the novella are present; all are in proper MLA citation. |
| Format | Final paper fails to meet at least 2 of the following requirements: typed, 2-3 pages, MLA format. | Final paper fails to meet one of the following requirements: typed, 2-3 pages, MLA format. | Final paper is submitted as a typed, 2-3 page paper in MLA format. |
| Organization | Paper is not organized in a way that makes sense to the reader. May need a lot of work in word, sentence, and paragraph order. Fails to stay on topic. | Final paper lacks organization. Ideas are clear, but sentences may not flow. Sentence order and paragraph order need some help. Occasionally strays from topic. | Organization and structure of essay demonstrate student’s understanding of flow and cohesion in writing. Paragraphs are broken in a way that makes sense in the context of the paper. Word order and sentence order are appropriate. |
| Word Choice | Uses only 1-2 vocabulary words properly. | Uses only 3-4 vocabulary words properly. | Properly incorporate at least 5 vocabulary words. |
| Total |  |  | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/70 |

**Realism: Final Project**

The list of projects to follow are meant to inspire you to delve deeper into the themes of the text. During the projects you will incorporate your knowledge of theme from the text *Of Mice and Men*, class discussions, videos, and articles about foreshadowing, realism, poverty, treatment of the mentally handicapped, and euthanasia.

All projects were inspired by real-world connections! Do you: like to look at history? Talk about your goals? Create artwork? Desire to write for a publication? Work with multimedia?

Keep your Multiple Intelligences Test answers in mind as you choose!

Starting today, we will have **3 in-class work sessions** where you will choose your project, begin your research & brainstorm, and ideally complete your essay and project. If you need extra time, you may return during Seminar or take supplies home for the weekend! During our class time, I will provide novels, art supplies, and laptops!

* **Create a dream board.**
  + Choose a character from the novel. You will create a collage of pictures and/or items that display that character’s goals, interests, dreams, and aspirations, as well as pictures that display events, items, activities, or hobbies that the character uses in his or her daily life. **You must include the character’s name, at least 10 items associated with the character, and 3 quotations total from the text that support your evidence.** 
    - You MAY NOT use pictures from the movie. If you have any doubts, ask me.
    - You may create a physical display using drawings or magazine cutouts, or you can use the digital collage maker Glogster (you may not use any other digital account).
  + Make a dream board for yourself. Include pictures or items that depict **your own** goals, interests, dreams, and aspirations. **For your own board you must include 10 items that represent 5 goals you want to accomplish in your own life (can be short or long term) and 3 quotes with author’s name cited that are inspirational TO YOU.**
  + You will also include a **1 page paper in MLA format** that explains **why the character was unable to accomplish his/her dreams, and explain if those dreams were realistic, what mistakes or roadblocks kept them from reaching their dreams, and what could have been done differently.**
* **Create a new cover for the novel.** 
  + Your new book cover should be a powerful image from the text that captures a topic from the novel (Loneliness, Friendship, Poverty, Lost Dreams, Foreshadowing, Realism). **You must cite 3 quotations from the text that accurately support your artwork**. How you incorporate these quotations on the cover is your choice.
  + In addition to the cover, you must create a “book”(out of whatever recycled materials you would like). It must have a spine that displays the author’s name, the book title, the year of its **original publication date**, and a back-cover summary of **8 sentences. \***\*Please Note!! The summary does not give away the ending, but it almost ALWAYS showcases the importance of a theme!! (See a real back-page summary for the best examples)\*\*
  + You will also include a **1 page paper in MLA format that explains why this cover is an accurate representation of the novel as a whole (think in terms of theme, plot, and foreshadowing!!!)**
* **Create a newspaper article.** 
  + Your article can be about an event from the novel **or** a factual past or present event that connects with one of the novel’s topics (Loneliness, Friendship, Poverty, Lost Dreams, Foreshadowing, Realism, The Great Depression/Recession). **Whichever topic you choose, you must include 3 cited quotes from the text that accurately represent your topic. Your article must be presented as unbiased and factual** (See a real newspaper for the best examples)**. You must include at least 1 (no more than 3) pictures that accurately represent your topic.** 
    - The article itself must be 200 words. Your newspaper must have a title, date, article title, at least 1 picture, and ONLY 1 advertisement (your choice; please be sure it’s appropriate). \*\*Google search “newspaper template” and choose one that fits your needs. \*\*
  + In addition to your article, you must also include a **1 page paper in MLA format that** explains why this particular event (fictional or factual) is representative of the novel and the theme you have chosen, **AND** what we as a society can learn from your topic.
* **Choose a song that represents a theme from the novel.** 
  + You will create a powerpoint (if you want to REALLY impress me, use PowToon; it’s free ☺) that plays a song which represents a topic from the text (Loneliness, Friendship, Poverty, Lost Dreams) in the background. **Your video must include** **the song, pictures that are relevant to the song’s lyrics AND the novel, and 3 quotations from the text that represent both the song AND the novel, 3 quotations from the song that represent both the song AND the novel.** 
    - You MAY NOT use pictures from the movie (ask me if you have any doubts).
    - You MAY NOT use the following songs: *How to Save a Life, You’ve Got a Friend in Me, Lean on Me, The American Dream,* or *All by Myself.*
  + In addition to your powerpoint, you must include a **1 page paper in MLA format** that explains how your song appeals to modern audiences. You must explain in your paper which theme your song parallels and include quotations from the song and the novel that support your choice.

OM&M Theme Song Analysis

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| Song Choice  X3 | Shares surface qualities with the novel, but no thematic connection; or connection is not clear | Shares a theme with the novel and has many clear connections | Shares a major theme and several minor ones or motifs as well. Clearly shares the same message about life. |
| Quoted Material  X2 | Only the song is quoted or only the novel is quoted; OR both are quoted but not correctly cited. | Both the song and the novel are quoted at least twice and correctly cited OR the quotes are too heavy and do not balance with the writers own words. | Both the novel and song are quoted in a balanced manner more with more than two examples that are cited correctly. |
| Written Content  X3 | Tells that the song and the novel share something in common.  MLA guidelines or length requirements are not met. | Shows that the novel and song share a theme. Either length OR MLA citation needs some work. | Shows how both the song and the novel share a theme and are a reflection of the overall human condition. Length and MLA guidelines are both met. |
| Presentation and Creativity  X5 | Presentation was plain and/or disorganized. Did not include relevant pictures. | Presentation showed effort, but may have TOO much information (looks chaotic) or lacked creativity. | Presentation is very creative, shows great effort, is organized, and uses space effectively. |
| Total Score |  |  | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/65 |

OM&M Newspaper Article

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| Topic Choice  X3 | Shares surface qualities with the novel, but no thematic connection; or connection is not clear. | Shares a relevant theme with the novel. | Topic clearly shares connections about life from the novel. |
| Quoted Material  X2 | Quotes are present, but cited incorrectly; or quotes are not relevant to the topic. | Quotes are present, but do not always include citation; or there are fewer than 3 quotations present in the article. | 3 relevant quotations from the novel are cited in MLA format. Quotes represent the article AND the novel. |
| Written Content (Essay)  X3 | Tells briefly that article and novel share something in common; presents little or no evidence. Lacks insight over why topic is relevant to society. Paper does not meet length or MLA guidelines. | Shows that article and novel share commonalities. Uses evidence, but isn’t always relevant. Statement about why topic is important to society is generic or obvious. Either length OR MLA guidelines need some work. | Uses evidence from the novel to show commonalities between novel and article. Makes a very clear statement about why topic is important to society, and tells precisely what we can learn from it. |
| Presentation of Article  X5 | Article is disorganized; or does not meet word requirement; or does not include pictures and/or an advertisement. Lacks thoughtfulness. Article may be presented as opinion. | Article points toward creativity, but lacks at least 2-3 of the requirements; or article is not presented as factual. | The article is representative of an actual newspaper. There is at least 1 picture and 1 advertisement present. The word count has been met. There is a title, date, and article title present in the newspaper. Article is written as factual in a journalistic style. |
| Total Score |  |  | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ /65 |

OM&M Book Cover

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| Topic Choice  X3 | Topic shares surface qualities with the novel, but image does not share a thematic connection; or connection is unclear. Theme or topic doesn’t represent novel as a whole. | Topic shares several connections with the text. Image is clearly from the novel, but does not convey the author’s message; or does not represent novel as a WHOLE. | Topic is a relevant choice, shares a connection to the text, and is clearly a theme or event that represents the novel as a WHOLE |
| Quoted Material  X2 | Quotes are present, but cited incorrectly; or quotes are not relevant to the topic. | Quotes are present, but do not always include citation; or there are fewer than 3 quotations present. | 3 relevant quotations from the novel are cited in MLA format. Quotes represent the artwork AND the novel. |
| Written Content  X3 | Explains the artwork, but does not show its connection to the text; or lacks insight about its connection. Paper does not meet length or MLA guidelines. | Paper shows connections between the text and the artwork. Either MLA citation or length need some work. | Paper clearly explains the connection between the artwork and the text, explanation is insightful, paper meets all requirements. |
| Presentation of Book  X5 | Book is not designed creatively, lacks effort, is sloppy, and/or lacks more than 3 of the requirements over the spine and back-cover. | Book shows effort and creativity, but lacks at least 2 requirement from the spine or back-cover. | Book is presented neatly, shows effort, creativity, and meets the requirements listed for the spine and back-cover. |
| Total |  |  | \_\_\_\_\_\_/65 |

**OM&M Dream Collage**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| Character Choice  X3 | Chosen character has little to do with the theme of “broken dreams”; or character is relevant, but dreams are not represented in display. | Chosen character’s dreams and goals are depicted, but are less than accurately represented by the displayed pictures. | Character is an excellent choice for the topic of “broken dreams.” Character’s dreams are depicted appropriately using objects, not movie stills, in the collage. |
| Quoted Material  X2 | Quotes are present, but cited incorrectly; or quotes are not relevant to the topic. | Quotes are present, but do not always include citation; or there are fewer than 6 TOTAL quotations present. | 3 relevant quotations from the novel are cited in MLA format, and 3 relevant, properly cited quotations of the author’s choosing are also present. Quotes represent the theme of “dreams” AND the novel. |
| Written Content  X3 | Shows little to no connections to the text; lacks insight about the character’s dreams; does not determine what the character could have done differently; or does not meet length or MLA requirement. | Shows evidence about why the character did not achieve their dream, OR determines what character could have done differently. Paper needs work on length or MLA requirement. | Shows proper evidence about how the character could have better accomplished their dreams, insight about why they did not accomplish their dream, and meets paper requirements. |
| Presentation of Collage  X5 | Collage lacks creativity and effort; or fewer than 10 pictures for both character’s collage and collage for self are shown. | Effort and creativity is present. May lack organization, or contain 11-19 pictures for both character’s collage and collage for self. | Collage shows organization, effort, and creativity. Collage contains 10 pictures that represent the dream of the chosen character, whose name is clearly stated on collage, and 10 pictures for the dreams of self. |
| TOTAL |  |  | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/65 |